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B). Please cancel the amendments of paragraph beginning at page 31, line 22 and ending at page 32, line 7, made in the Amendment A filed August 2, 2002.

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C). Please cancel the amendments of the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 16 and ending at page 33, line 7, made in the Amendment A filed August 2, 2002.

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D). Please cancel the amendments of the paragraph bridging page 33 and page 34, made in the Amendment A filed August 2, 2002.

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E). Please amend the second paragraph on page 71, lines 11-22 as follows:

CJ
GW
~~The grafting of such macromonomers to the bulk substrate material surface through attachment at the reactive sites of a polymeric tie layer yields a hydrophilic layer having for example a so-called bottle brush-type structure (BBT) composed of tethered "hairy" chains. Such BBT structures in one embodiment comprise a long hydrophilic or hydrophobic backbone which carries relatively densely packed comparatively short hydrophilic side chains (called primary bottle brushes). Another embodiment relates to secondary bottle brushes which are characterized in that the hydrophilic side chains themselves carry densely packed hydrophilic "secondary" side chains. Polymeric coatings of said primary and secondary BBT structures to a certain extent mimic highly water-retaining structures occurring in the human body, for example in cartilage or mucosal tissue.~~

CB
F). Please amend the first paragraph on page 72, lines 1-11 as follows:

CB
~~The complete coating of the bulk material according to the invention consists (a) of at least a partial tie layer, one or more tie layers comprising polyelectrolytes and (b) of an outer coating which may be hydrophilic or which may comprise various other active agents such as anti-microbial agents, organoselenium or block-type copolymers wherein one block is LbL active and the other is not. When the outer coating is hydrophilic, it is obtained by grafting one or more hydrophilic monomers or macromonomers onto the surface, wherein the latter makes up at least 50 %, from about 75 to about 98 % and from about 80 to about 95 % of the total thickness of the fully hydrated coating.~~

REMARKS

Sp cification

Applicants respectfully submit that some structural formula are supported by the originally filed specification. For example, on page 19, lines 6-9, Applicants state: